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although there is no clear presentation of what that day shall bring, or how it shall come.

This study of present social conditions and ideals through the writings and work of others, is admirably seconded by direct observation on the part of the author; and the essays which will leave the strongest impression on the mind of the reader are those entitled, "June in England," and "In Dejection near Tooting," in which, with concentrated power, he gives a picture of the changes which an age of industrialism is working in the social life.

The scenes described, the personalities studied, and the issues characterized in this book are all English; but the forces seen at work in the inner life of society, as in the outward economic changes going forward, are also to be found in America, and this study of the deeper life of England will throw much light upon our problems in America.

The student of literature, the student of religious life, and the student of sociology will find equal satisfaction in the careful perusal of this book, from which one can but turn away with the feeling that he has spent profitable hours in the presence of a master mind, and with a spirit thrilled with profound and ennobling emotions.

The fineness and finish of the English used, will also prove no small delight to the lover of good prose.

LESLIE WILLIS SPRAGUE.

NEW YORK.

SOCIALISM AND POSITIVE SCIENCE. By Enrico Ferri, London. Independent Labor Party, 1905. Pp. 174.

SOCIALISM AND SOCIETY. By J. Ramsay Macdonald, London. Independent Labor Party, 1905. Pp. 184.

It is interesting at the moment when the British Parliament is regarding its Labor members with the respect due to a new political force to find the Independent Labor Party undertaking the issue of a Socialist's library as a medium for the expression of its teaching. Under the general editorship of Mr. Macdonald there will be produced a series of volumes aiming at an exposition of political philosophy and social economics from the standpoint of Socialism. Such an attempt should be warmly welcomed. Hitherto Socialists have in the main contented themselves with indiscriminating attacks upon existing society and with appeals to sen-

timent in place of constructive thinking. With the opportunity for action will come a better understanding of what is possible. This is well exemplified by comparing the volumes under review. Professor Ferri, writing primarily for Italian readers, far behind our own in political emancipation and social wellbeing, adheres more closely to the phrases around which has gathered an imaginary glory, and of which vagueness is the chief virtue. "Each has a right to equal reward;" "All men ought to give themselves up to the work that best corresponds to their ability;" are abstract statements that need serious qualification if applied to the actual world. The crude law of surplus value; the existence of only two classes in society, the workers and the owners of property; the purely economic interpretation of history; these are accepted in a way that removes all faith in the author's discrimination. Mr. Macdonald on the other hand, expressly dissociates himself from these crudities. For him Socialism stands for organization. He sees in the present system a failure to achieve an equitable distribution of wealth. The moral character developed in a world directed by self-interest is essentially mean and degraded. Many needs, the satisfaction of which cannot be made the source of individual profit, go unsatisfied. Socialism alone will remedy these evils, thinks Mr. Macdonald. He agrees with Professor Ferri, however, in advocating the support of a strong Labor representation in parliament, dissociated from any other party, which shall devote its whole energies to extending the sphere of state administration. It is here, of course, that individualists disagree. They are as anxious as Mr. Macdonald for the elimination of conflicting interests; for selfishness to give way to the desire for common good. But they ask for a guarantee that a Labor Party will not be as much a representative of a sectional interest as any other. They doubt the ability of administrative Socialism to organize production as efficiently as under a system of individual liberty. This objection is rendered the stronger by the complete failure of the present writers to do justice to the exceeding complexity of the existing industrial organization and to the measure of its success. Instead, by a circular definition, Socialism is always assumed to be synonymous with the end to be gained, namely, perfect organization, animated by a completely ethical spirit. The chief argument in support is the analogy, entirely unscientific, between the State and an Organism. An Organism develops a system of unified control. Hence the life of the society, being an organism,

must have its affairs directed by the State. Natural selection secures the survival of the fittest. Hence the Darwinian theory, the great scientific law of development in the modern world, guarantees the eventual prevalence of Socialism, which, by definition, is made to coincide with the most efficient system of social relations.

These fallacies are only pointed out because we cannot but feel that the strength of the Socialist position, in many ways so forcibly here stated, is seriously weakened by reliance on a series of false analogies so calculated to do harm if accepted as the basis of constructive political action.

C. J. HAMILTON.

London.

OUT OF WORK. A STUDY OF EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES. By Frances A. Kellor. New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1904. Pp. IX. 92s.

This volume, divided into two parts, deals with Intelligence Offices under seven chapters, which state the problem, describe places, give business methods and conditions connected with offices; raise the question of responsibility for attendant immorality; show the difficulties from the point of view of the office, and finally, with recent developments, suggest remedies.

Part II, in three chapters, deals with Employment Agencies; Agencies for Men; Professional, Commercial Agencies, Free Employment Bureaus and finally State Municipal Laws.

As the title suggests, the out-of-work problem is thus covered. The volume has the first clear advantage of depending chiefly upon personal investigation rather than upon statistical tables of questionable value. Miss Kellor writes for those who go to these agencies for helpers rather than for students, but her assistance to students is all the more effective for that reason. She looks rather to patrons and officials for improvements, to "the home makers and practical business men."

The author visited 732 agencies for which she has trustworthy documentary evidence.

It is one of the signs of competence in this investigation that, as suggested in the preface, Miss Kellor keeps a saving sympathy with the object of her criticism. There is no better test of good social work of this character.